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SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
TM
TRACY YARDLEY JENSEN

WELCOME TO THE PLANET MOBIUS- A WORLD BEYOND WHAT YOU KNOW FROM THE ***SEGA*** GAMES! ...WHERE ***SONIC*** AND THE HEROIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS WORK TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM THE FORCES OF EVIL!

THE EGGDOME. ONCE THE LAST STRONG-HOLD IN DR. EGGMAN'S RUINED CITY OF NEW MEGAOPOLIS AND THE SEAT OF POWER IN THE EGGMAN EMPIRE.

NEW MOBOTROPOLIS. ONCE THE CAPITAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF ACORN AND BEACON OF HOPE FOR THE WORLD.

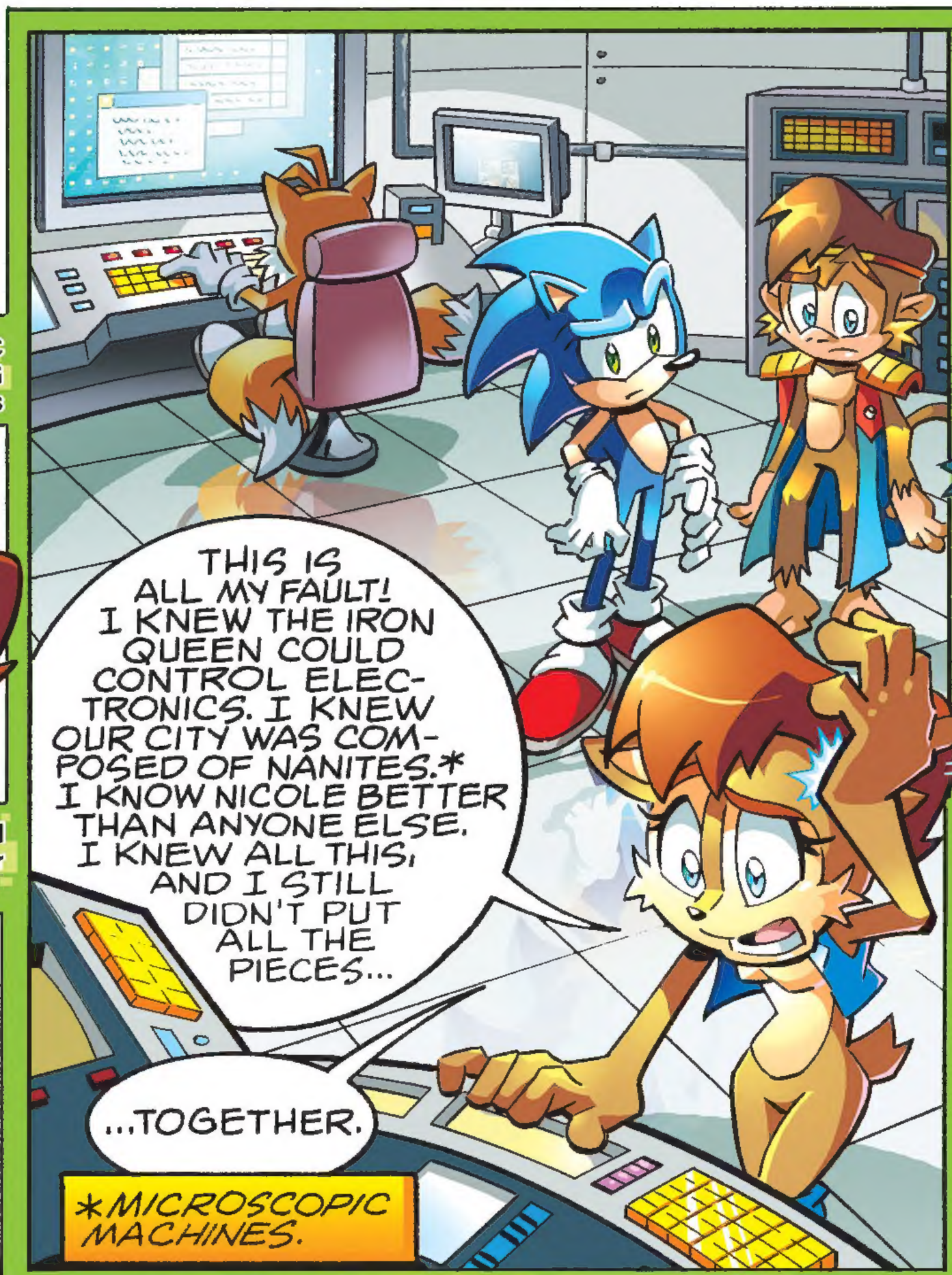
NOW IT IS UNDER CONTROL OF THE IRON DOMINION, THE NEW RULERS OF THE EGGMAN EMPIRE.

FREEDOM HQ. ONCE THE CLUBHOUSE FOR THE YOUNG FREEDOM FIGHTERS, IT'S NOW THE HOME-AWAY-FROM-HOME AND COMMAND CENTER FOR TODAY'S FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND THE CHAOTIX.

IT IS ALSO SONIC'S LAST REFUGE AGAINST THE IRON DOMINION...

IRON DOMINION
PART 2

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
Hero of Mobius

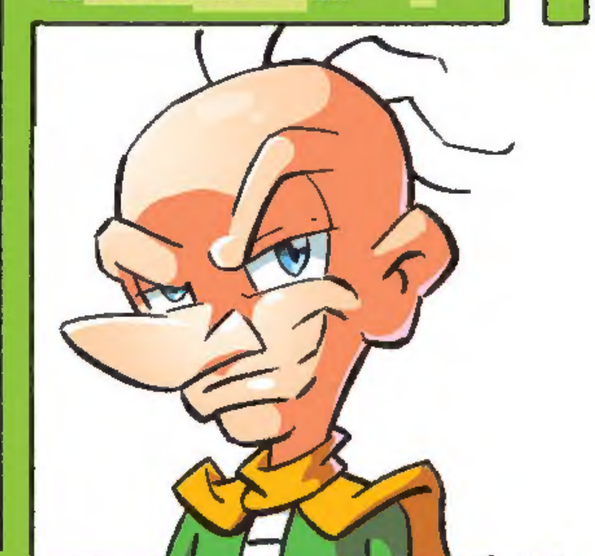


REGINA FERRUM
The Iron Queen

SALLY ACORN
Princess & Field Leader

IRON NICOLE
"Brainwashed" A.I.

MONKEY KHAN
Cyborg Simian



SNIVELY ROBOTNIK
Eggman's Nephew

Writer: IAN FLYNN • Pencils: TRACY YARDLEY!
Inks: TERRY AUSTIN • Colors: MATT HERMS
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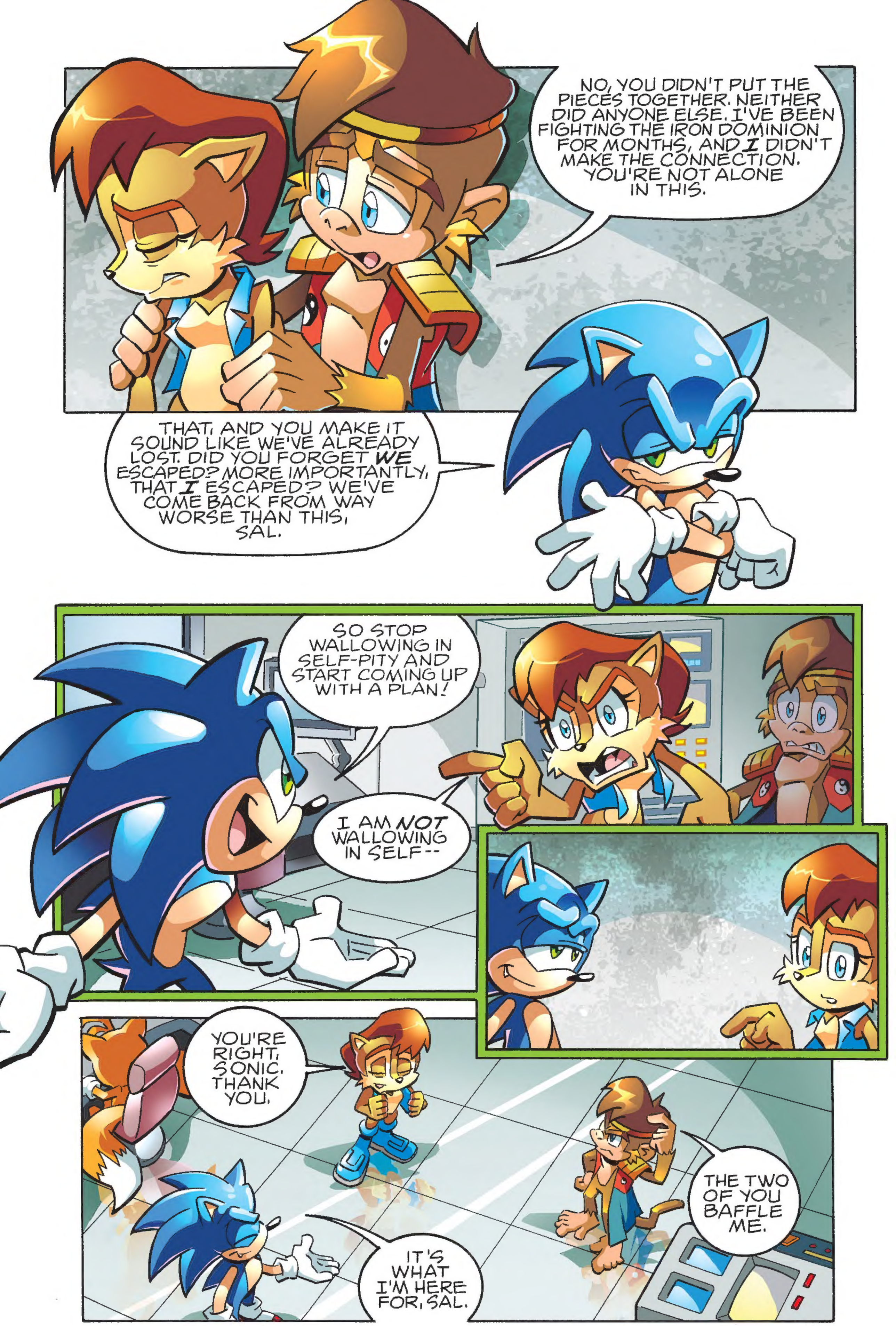
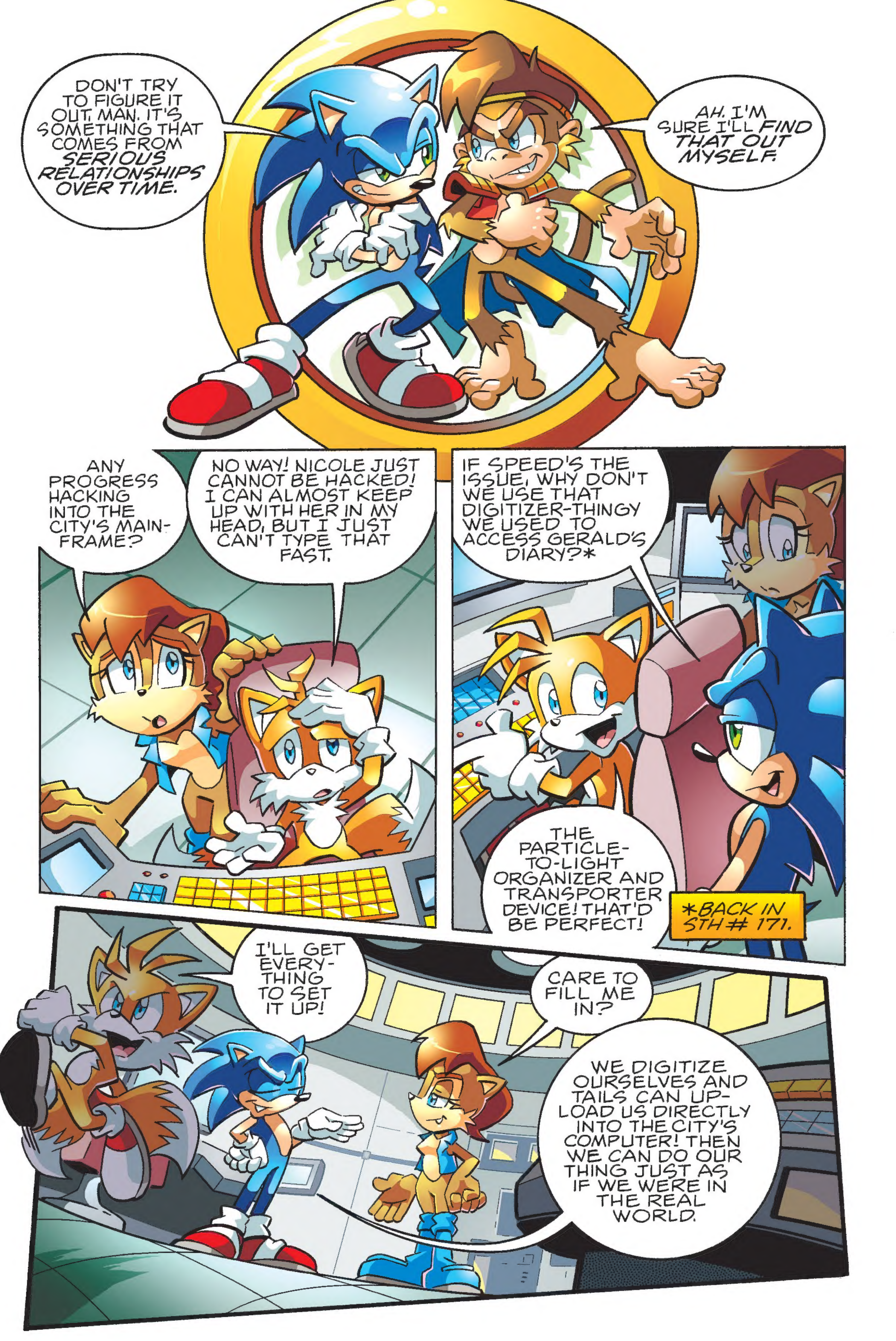
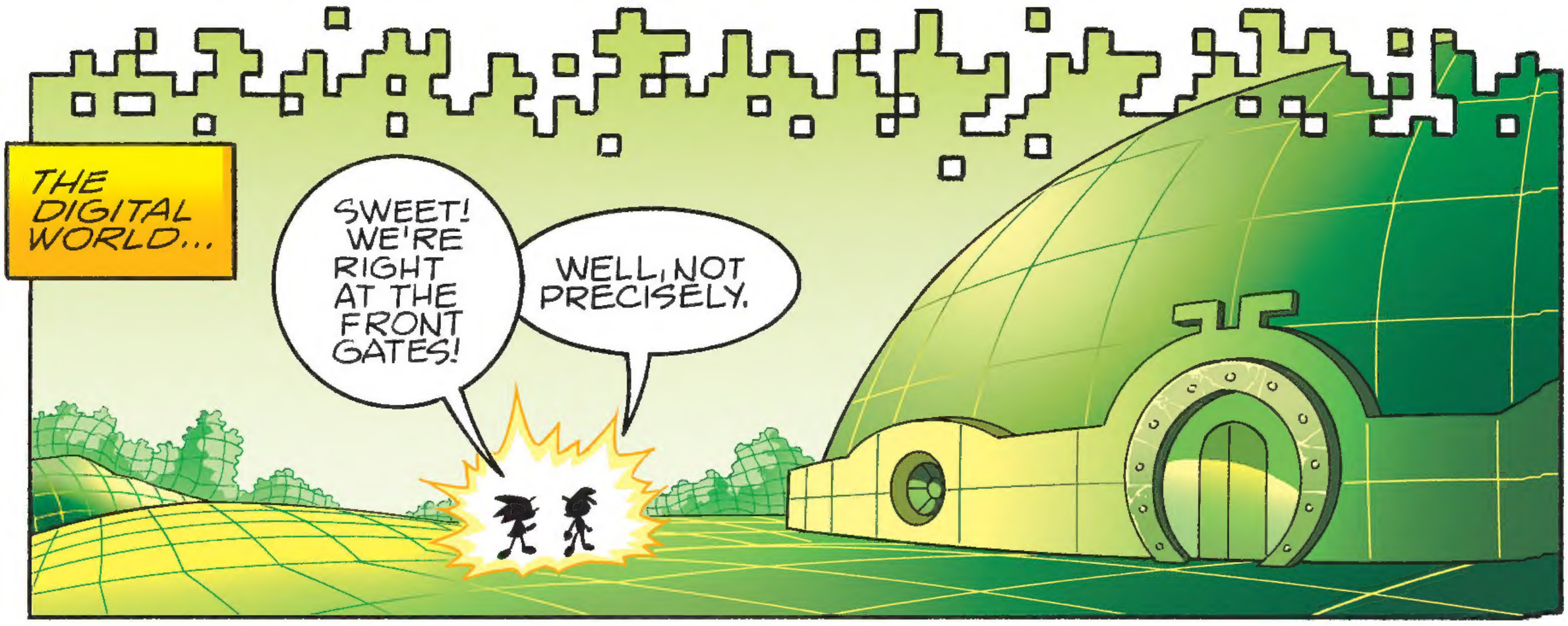

NO, YOU DIDN'T PUT THE PIECES TOGETHER. NEITHER DID ANYONE ELSE. I'VE BEEN FIGHTING THE IRON DOMINION FOR MONTHS, AND I DIDN'T MAKE THE CONNECTION. YOU'RE NOT ALONE IN THIS.
THAT, AND YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE WE'VE ALREADY LOST. DID YOU FORGET WE ESCAPED? MORE IMPORTANTLY, THAT I ESCAPED? WE'VE COME BACK FROM WAY WORSE THAN THIS, SAL.
SO STOP WALLOWING IN SELF-PITY AND START COMING UP WITH A PLAN!
I AM NOT WALLOWING IN SELF--
YOU'RE RIGHT, SONIC. THANK YOU.
IT'S WHAT I'M HERE FOR, SAL.
THE TWO OF YOU BAFFLE ME.

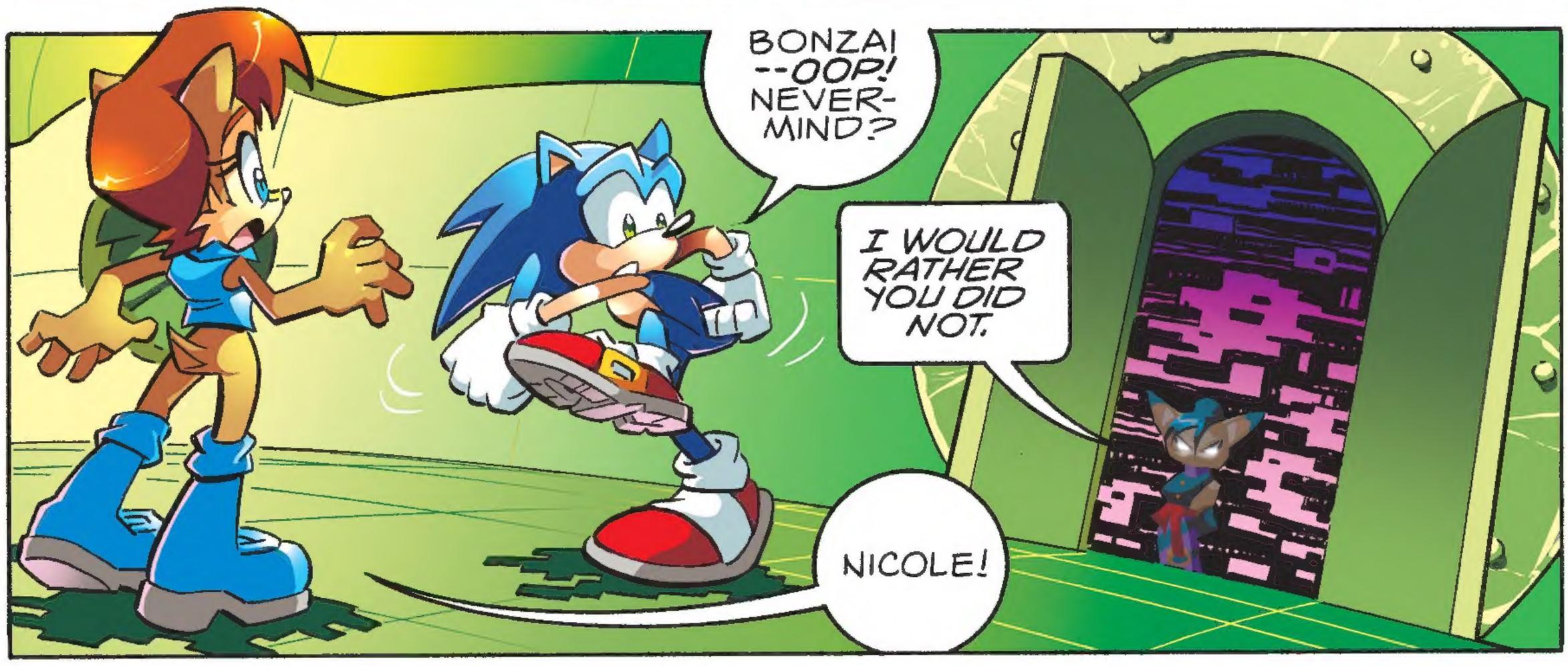

DON'T TRY TO FIGURE IT OUT, MAN. IT'S SOMETHING THAT COMES FROM SERIOUS RELATIONSHIPS OVER TIME.
AH. I'M SURE I'LL FIND THAT OUT MYSELF.
ANY PROGRESS HACKING INTO THE CITY'S MAIN-FRAME?
NO WAY! NICOLE JUST CANNOT BE HACKED! I CAN ALMOST KEEP UP WITH HER IN MY HEAD, BUT I JUST CAN'T TYPE THAT FAST.
IF SPEED'S THE ISSUE, WHY DON'T WE USE THAT DIGITIZER-THINGY WE USED TO ACCESS GERALD'S DIARY?*
THE PARTICLE-TO-LIGHT ORGANIZER AND TRANSPORTER DEVICE! THAT'D BE PERFECT!
*BACK IN STH # 171.
I'LL GET EVERY-THING TO SET IT UP!
CARE TO FILL ME IN?
WE DIGITIZE OURSELVES AND TAILS CAN UP-LOAD US DIRECTLY INTO THE CITY'S COMPUTER! THEN WE CAN DO OUR THING JUST AS IF WE WERE IN THE REAL WORLD.

IT'S A PLAN, AT LEAST. ALL RIGHT-- LET'S DO IT!
AS MUCH AS I LIKE TAKING THE DIRECT ROUTE, IS THAT EVEN REMOTELY SAFE?
NO, PROBABLY NOT. AND SOMETHING THIS BRAZEN IS BOUND TO GET THE IRON QUEEN'S ATTENTION. WATCH OVER US WHILE WE'RE GONE?
BUT I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO WORK A COMPUTER.
SHE MEANS THE BASE, BANANA-BRAINS! TAILS WILL MONITOR US WHILE WE'RE CRUISING CYBERSPACE.
I'LL UPLOAD YOU GUYS AS DEEP INTO THE MAINFRAME AS I CAN ACCESS. YOU'LL HAVE TO "HACK" YOUR WAY IN FROM THERE.
SOUNDS GOOD, PAL. JUICE US!
DIGITIZING!
FWASH
THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER WAY...


THE DIGITAL WORLD...
SWEET! WE'RE RIGHT AT THE FRONT GATES!
WELL, NOT PRECISELY.

BUT... I *SEE* GATES.
IF WE'VE BEEN DIGITIZED, THEN THIS IS JUST HOW WE'RE *PERCEIVING* THE DEFENSIVE MEASURES NICOLE HAS PUT UP AGAINST US.

LOOK, LET'S KEEP THIS SIMPLE, *OKAY?* I'M GOING TO "PERCEIVE" ME SPIN-DASHING THAT GATE INTO LITTLE "PERCEIVED" BITS.
BE MY GUEST.


BONZAI --*OOP!* NEVER-MIND?
I WOULD RATHER YOU DID NOT.
NICOLE!

MY FILE HAS BEEN RENAMED TO "IRON NICOLE" NOW. A DIGITIZED FRONTAL ASSAULT WAS NOT ANTICIPATED, BUT WAS WITHIN THE RANGE OF PRE-DICTABILITY.
I'LL TAKE THAT AS "THAT WAS CLEVER."
WHICH IT WAS.
THANK YOU, THANK YOU.
SURRENDER TO THE IRON DOMINION OR FACE DELETION.
NICOLE, STOP! I KNOW YOU'RE STRONGER THAN THIS!
YOUR CODING IS TOO MUCH FOR ROTOR, TAILS, OR ROBOTNIK. EVEN WHEN A.D.A.M. INVADED YOUR SYSTEM, YOU WERE STILL YOU.*
ERROR: FATAL ARGUMENT... ROOT COMMAND CANNOT BE FOUND...SALLY?...
*BACK IN STH #168.
THAT'S IT, NICOLE! FIGHT IT!
YO, SAL...
...WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM.
MREE-HEE-HEE-HEE! I SEEM TO HAVE A COUPLE OF VIRUSES IN MY NEW CITY'S SYSTEM!

I'LL JUST HAVE TO PURGE YOU!

NICOLE!

ZAKT

WE'LL COME BACK AROUND. WE NEED A PLAN, SAL.

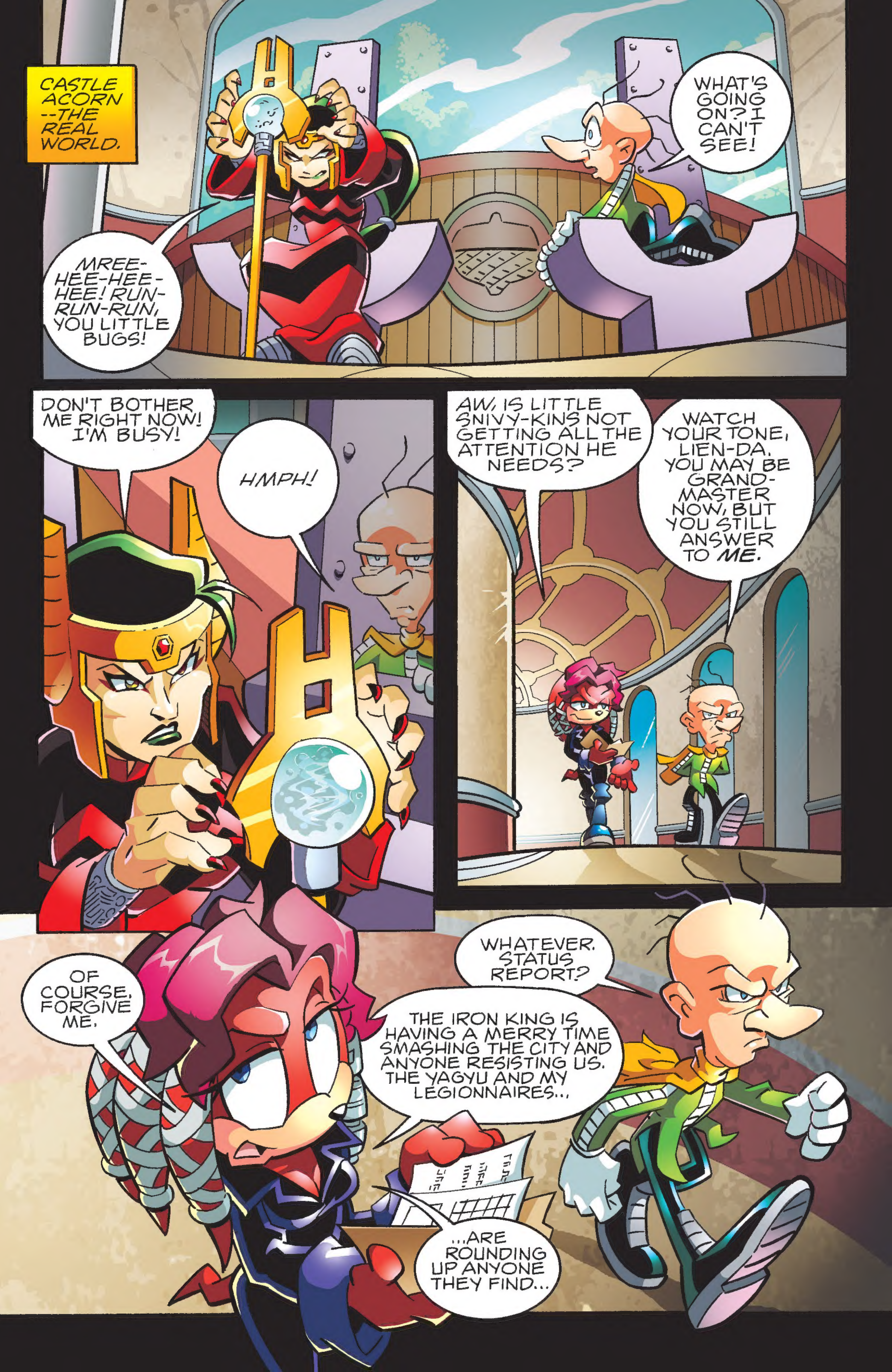
I THINK I CAN BEND THE RULES OF THIS WORLD TO OUR FAVOR AND HELP NICOLE, BUT WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE IRON QUEEN.

YEAH, ABOUT THAT...

I GET THAT SHE'S A TECHNO-WIZARD, OR WHATEVER, BUT I'M PRETTY SURE WE DIDN'T HAVE A DIGITIZER IN THE CITY...

ZAKT

...SO HOW THE HECK IS SHE *HERE*?!


CASTLE ACORN --THE REAL WORLD.
MREE-HEE-HEE-HEE! RUN-RUN-RUN, YOU LITTLE BUGS!
WHAT'S GOING ON? I CAN'T SEE!
DON'T BOTHER ME RIGHT NOW! I'M BUSY!
HMPH!
AW, IS LITTLE SNIVY-KINS NOT GETTING ALL THE ATTENTION HE NEEDS?
WATCH YOUR TONE, LIEN-DA. YOU MAY BE GRAND-MASTER NOW, BUT YOU STILL ANSWER TO ME.
OF COURSE, FORGIVE ME.
WHATEVER. STATUS REPORT?
THE IRON KING IS HAVING A MERRY TIME SMASHING THE CITY AND ANYONE RESISTING US. THE YAGYU AND MY LEGIONNAIRES...
...ARE ROUNDING UP ANYONE THEY FIND...

"...AND LOCKING THEM UP, JUST LIKE YOUR UNCLE."

DETENTION CENTER...

SIR CHARLES! IT'S BEEN AGES! TELL ME-- HOW IS THAT "ROBOT-SIZER" OF YOURS COMING ALONG?

GIVE IT A REST, EGGMAN! CRAZY OR NOT, I'VE GOT NO PATIENCE--

--FOR YOUR BABBLING!

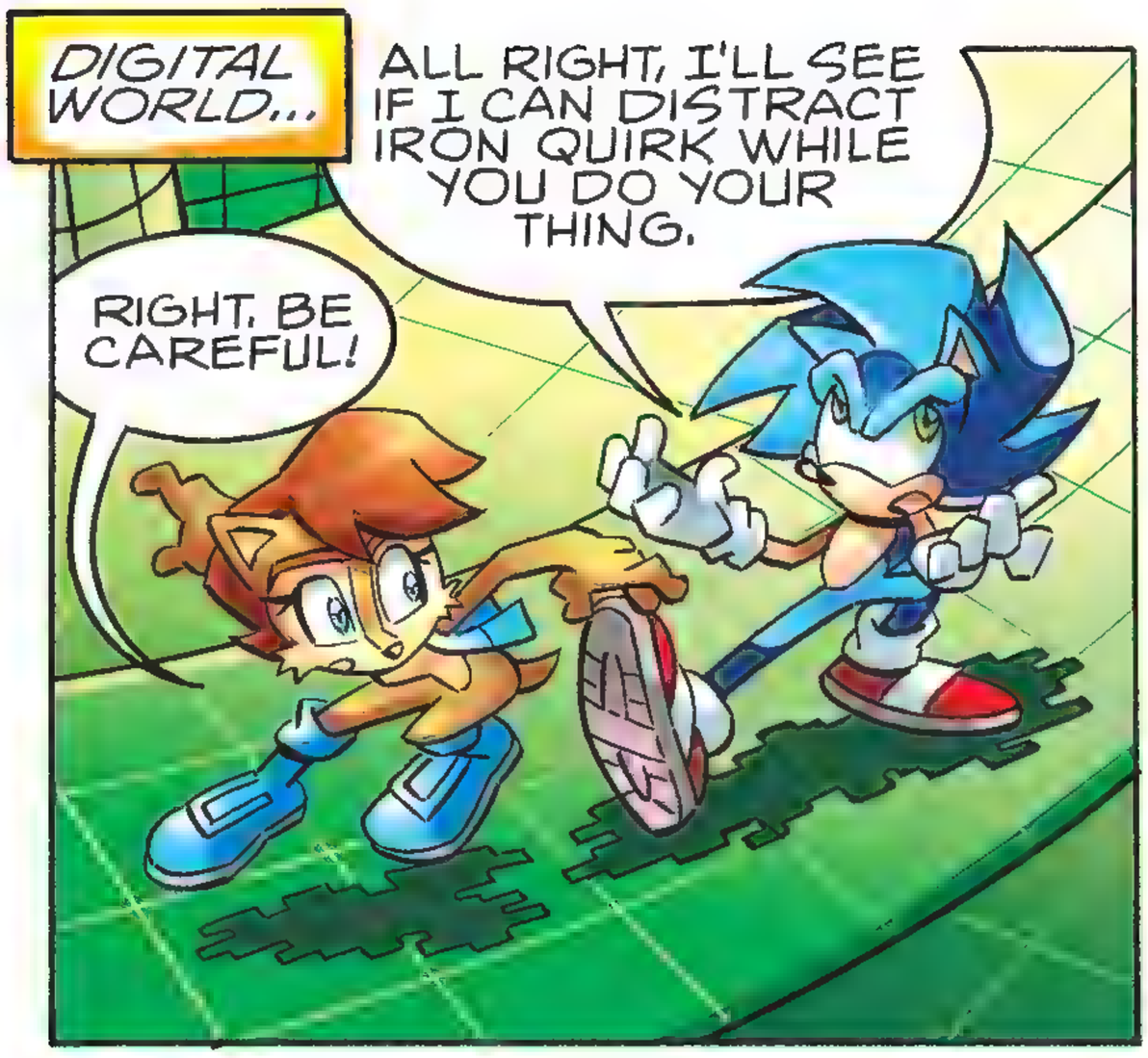
HISS!

YEAH, YEAH! I'M MOVING.

"EGGMAN?" THAT USED TO BE SOMETHING SOMEONE TEASED ME ABOUT...BUT I TURNED IT AROUND AND NAMED SOMETHING AFTER IT...

I USED TO GO BY "JULIAN," BUT IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE THEN, HASN'T IT? I GO BY "ROBOTNIK" NOW, AND SOMETIMES..."EGGMAN"...

...OF MY EGGMAN EMPIRE...



GET READY FOR A SUPER-SONIC BLACK EYE, QUEENIE!

SKYOW!

NO WAY!

THIS IS MY DOMAIN. I AM WITHOUT LIMITATIONS HERE.

OH, YEAH? LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN REALLY MATCH MY SONIC SPIN.
SKYOW!
SKYOW!
SKYOW!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PART WHERE I HANDLED NICOLE?
DUDE, SAL, I THINK WE'RE IN TROUBLE.

FREEDOM HQ-- THE REAL WORLD...

WHAT WAS THAT?! A TON OF CODING JUST FLASHED ACROSS THE SCREEN!

SONIC IS FIGHTING NICOLE'S DEFENSIVE PROGRAMMING. THIS IS LOOKING BAD...

ABOUT NICOLE... DOES SHE PHYSICALLY EXIST IN THE CITY?

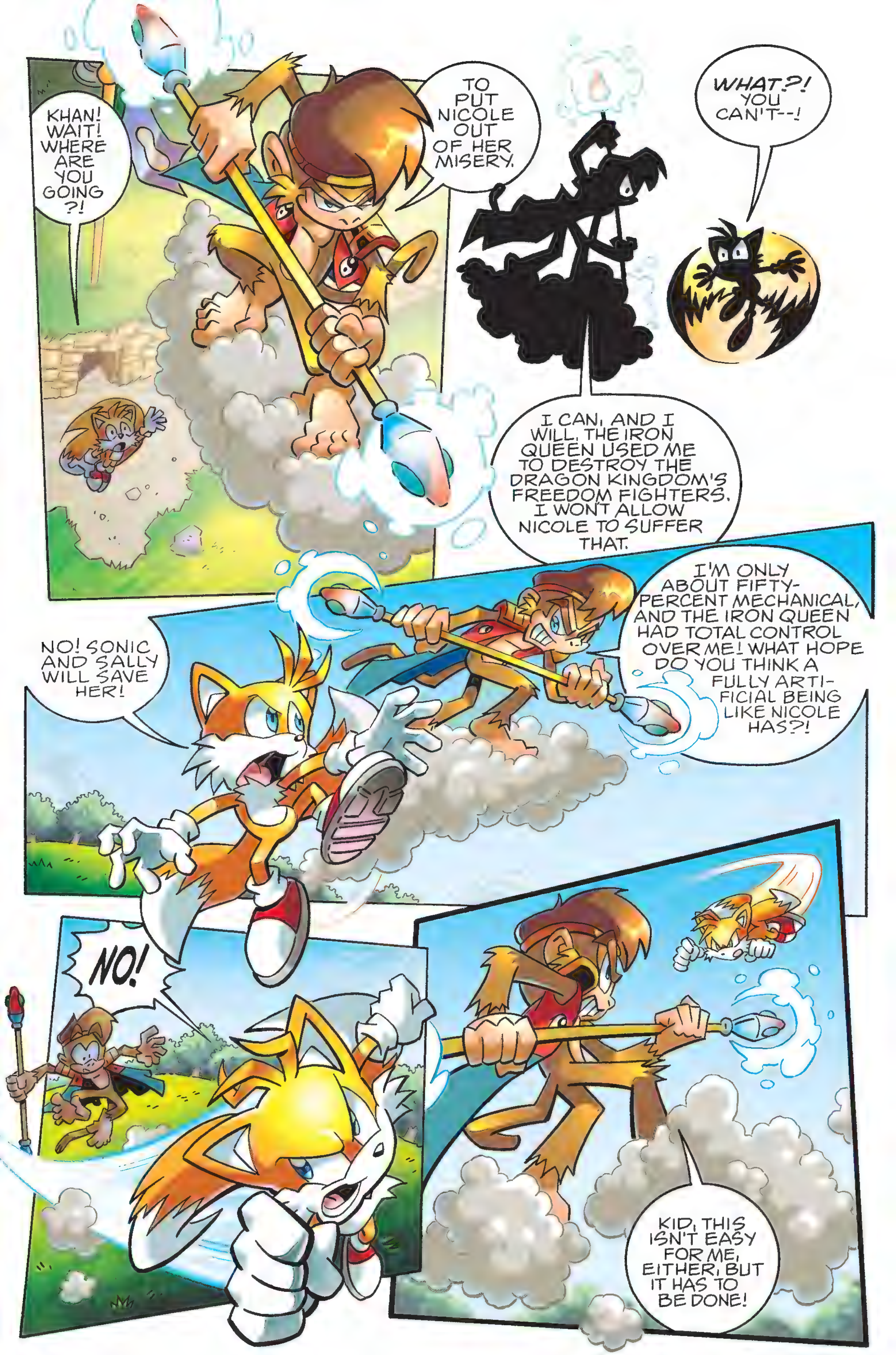
SORT OF. THE BULK OF HER CODE WAS UPLOADED TO THE CITY'S MAINFRAME SO SHE COULD RUN THE NANITES BETTER.

AND WHERE IS THAT MAINFRAME?

IT'S SET BELOW CASTLE ACORN, BUT THERE'S AN ACCESS TUNNEL THAT RUNS FROM THE SCIENCE CENTER. NOT LIKE IT DOES US ANY GOOD RIGHT NOW.

NO, NO GOOD CAN BE DONE AT THIS POINT.

...WAIT A MINUTE...


KHAN! WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING ?!
TO PUT NICOLE OUT OF HER MISERY.
WHAT?! YOU CAN'T--!
I CAN, AND I WILL. THE IRON QUEEN USED ME TO DESTROY THE DRAGON KINGDOM'S FREEDOM FIGHTERS. I WONT ALLOW NICOLE TO SUFFER THAT.
NO! SONIC AND SALLY WILL SAVE HER!
I'M ONLY ABOUT FIFTY-PERCENT MECHANICAL, AND THE IRON QUEEN HAD TOTAL CONTROL OVER ME! WHAT HOPE DO YOU THINK A FULLY ARTI-FICIAL BEING LIKE NICOLE HAS?!
NO!
KID, THIS ISN'T EASY FOR ME, EITHER, BUT IT HAS TO BE DONE!

NO IT DOESN'T! WE'RE HEROES! WE DO WHAT'S RIGHT, EVEN WHEN IT'S HARD!

IT ISN'T A MATTER OF BEING "HARD," TAILS! THIS IS *IMPOSSIBLE!*

WAS IT IMPOSSIBLE TO SAVE BUNNIE? WAS IT IMPOSSIBLE TO SAVE YOU?*

NO, BUT...

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE!

*STH #203-204.

IF IT WAS REALLY SO HOPELESS, WHY DID YOU COME ALL THE WAY HERE? WHY DON'T YOU JUST ZAP ME AND GET ON WITH IT?

I DON'T *WANT* TO HAVE TO DESTROY HER...

THEN WAIT AND SEE WHAT SONIC AND SALLY CAN DO. OR DO YOU NOT BELIEVE IN THEM, EITHER?

YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE IT'S SO SIMPLE, BUT IT'S...

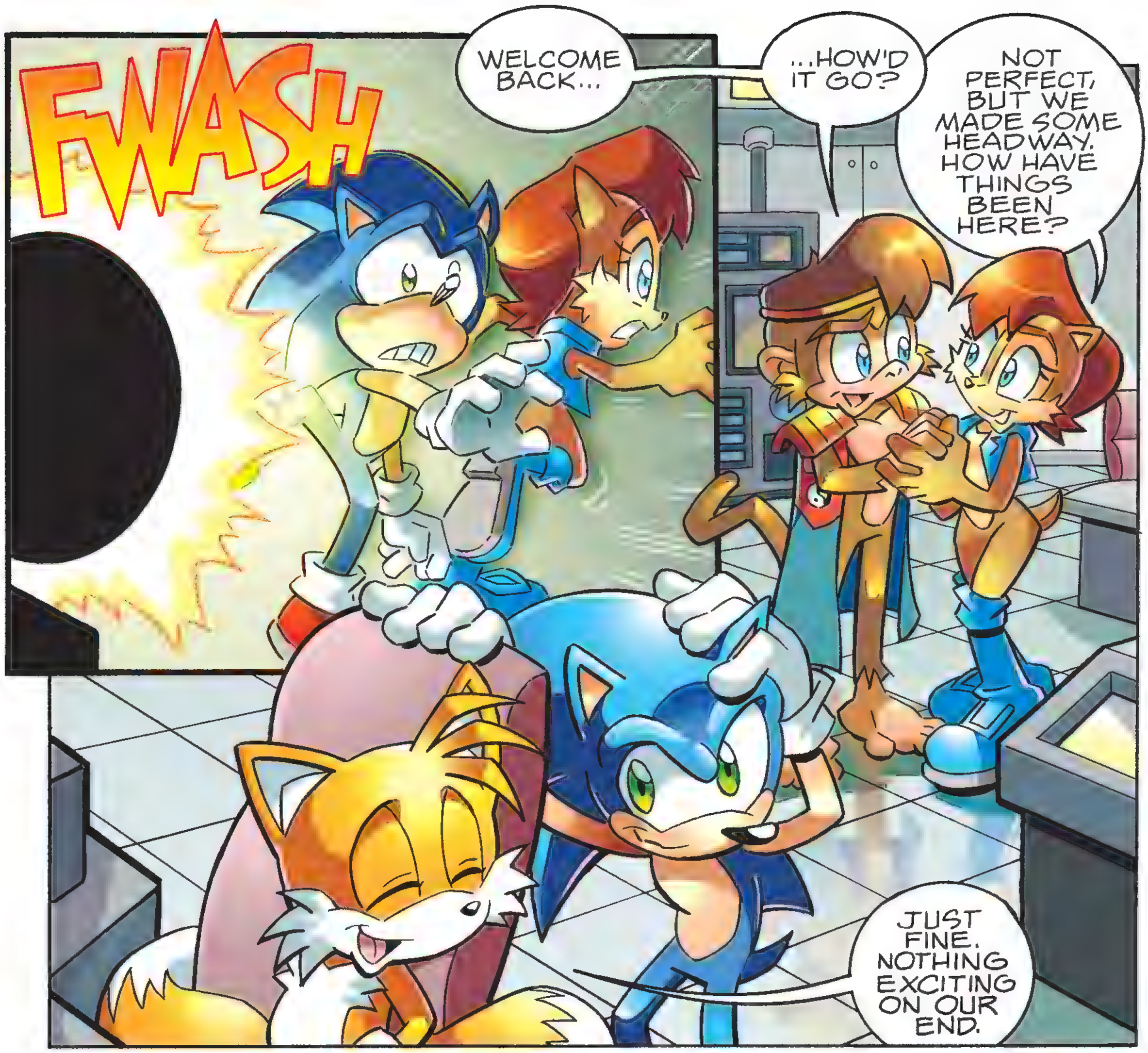
THE DIGITAL WORLD...
ALL RIGHT...IF I APPLY ROTOR'S FIREWALL CODING AS IF I COULD "CAST" IT LIKE MAGIC...
SKYOW
FWMP
YES! NOW WE CAN MAKE SOME PROGRESS!
NAUGHTY LITTLE VIRUS, TRYING TO MAKE YOUR OWN FIRE-WALLS IN MY SYSTEM!
KRA-KOW
YIPE!

SONIC! GO ON THE OFFENSIVE! I CAN HOLD NICOLE NOW!
GOTCHA!
WHAT ARE YOU--?
GIVE ME A HALF OF A SECOND, AND I'LL SHOW YOU.
NOW, LIKE I SAID BEFORE...
...HERE'S HEDGEHOG IN YOUR EYE!
FWMP
GYAAAH!
EEEYARGH! I HATE THAT HEDGEHOG!

...NICOLE?
...WARNING, CONNECTION TO HOST LOST ...CONNECTION ...LOST...
SALLY?
NICOLE!
IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK.
I AM CURRENTLY BUILDING GREATER DEFENSES IN MY CODING TO BLOCK OUT THE IRON QUEEN'S MAGIC...
NICOLE ?
I HAVE ALREADY DOWNLOADED LOGS OF MY PREVIOUS ACTIONS. I AM...FURIOUS? MORTIFIED? EMOTIONS ARE DIFFICULT TO LABEL WHEN YOU ACTUALLY EXPERIENCE THEM.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. WE'RE IN CONTROL OF THE SITUATION NOW.
NO. I'M AFRAID WE ARE NOT.

I AM SAFE FROM THE IRON QUEEN NOW, BUT I AM...WEAK. MOST OF THE CITIZENS ARE IMPRISONED, THE IRON DOMINION IS WELL-STATIONED THROUGHOUT THE CITY, AND THEY STILL HAVE THE SUPPORT OF MORE FORCES IN THE DRAGON KINGDOM.
YOU'RE RIGHT. EVEN IF WE PUSHED THEM OUT TODAY, THEY COULD COME BACK WITH EVEN GREATER NUMBERS...AND ALL THE WISER.
THAT'S MY ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION, YES.
THEN WE'LL PULL THE SAME TRICK ON THEM. WE HAVE ACCESS TO THE CITY THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT NOW, AND WE CAN WEAKEN THEM FROM WITHIN.
...I SEE WHERE THIS IS GOING.
I'M SORRY TO ASK SO MUCH OF YOU.
I WILL ACT AS "IRON NICOLE" AND KEEP THINGS MANAGEABLE HERE...
...WHILE WE BREAK THE IRON DOMINION'S POWERBASE ABROAD.
BE SAFE. WE'LL BE BACK AS FAST AS WE CAN.
GOOD LUCK, SALLY.

UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS DENIED. PURGING.
WINK-
TAILS! GET US OUT OF HERE! TAILS?!
WHUD
TAILS!!! CAN HE EVEN HEAR US IN THIS WORLD?
WHOA ...THE WHOLE CITY IS DOING A SPIN-DASH AROUND ME...
FWASH
IRON NICOLE ?
THE INVADERS HAVE BEEN PURGED FROM THE SYSTEM, MY QUEEN. NEW MOBOTROPOLIS REMAINS FULLY YOURS.


FWASH
WELCOME BACK...
...HOW'D IT GO?
NOT PERFECT, BUT WE MADE SOME HEADWAY. HOW HAVE THINGS BEEN HERE?
JUST FINE. NOTHING EXCITING ON OUR END.

GOOD TO HEAR. TAILS, SHUT EVERYTHING DOWN. THEN, EVERYONE PACK SOME SUPPLIES. WE'RE HEADING STRAIGHT TO THE DRAGON KINGDOM AND BREAKING THE IRON DOMINION'S SUPPORT LINES BEFORE RETAKING THE CITY.
AND...AND NICOLE?
ONE OF US AGAIN. SHE'S UNDERCOVER IN THE CITY.
GOOD.
THAT'S GOOD.

AND SO...
NEXT STOP--THE DRAGON KINGDOM!
WE HAVE TO SUCCEED IN OUR MISSION...
...OTHERWISE THE IRON DOMINION WILL HAVE WON.
FOUR HEROES TRAVEL TO A DISTANT LAND TO ATTEMPT THE IMPOSSIBLE! FOLLOW SONIC'S ADVENTURE IN SONIC UNIVERSE #13! NEXT ISSUE--WHAT REMAINS OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS? IT'S AMY ROSE VS. THE IRON DOMINION!

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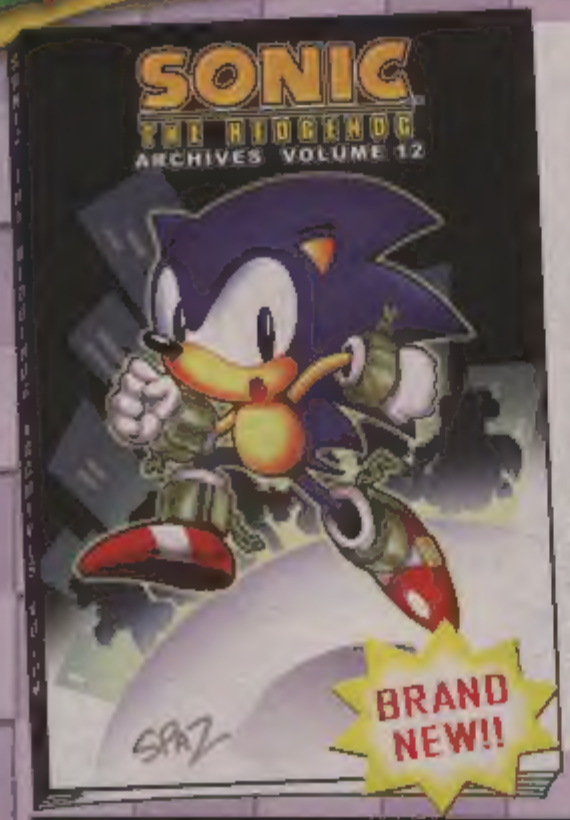

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by Ariadna B. from Puerto Rico

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LETTERS

Dear Sonic Grams,
I simply wanted to say that I'm very happy with the direction the books have been going lately, and enjoy reading the stories you've been working on. The Iron Dominion feels like something new to the comic, without taking everything away from the familiar territory that keeps the characters grounded. It's a new threat that everyone can react to, not just Sonic, and it works to keep people on their toes and guessing. The work has been enjoyable and fun recently, and the lighthearted tone keeps everything from feeling too crushing. Thank you for yet another year of great comics, and, ahem, keep "doing it to it."

Scott M.
from MARYLAND

We're glad you've enjoyed the "Iron Dominion" Saga so far, Scott! Be sure to follow it in Sonic Universe as well as the regular Sonic the Hedgehog.

Dear Sonic Grams,
New reader here, just under a year reading the book, but I just can't get enough of it. I've spent hours and hours hunting around on the internet looking for the old issues of the book, and after eleven months of searching, I finally bought them all. It really has been something reading the entire series, seeing all the intrigue, the mayhem, and heroic action from the very beginning has been a real treat. The past 328 issues have been a blast. And what's on the horizon for the book looks even better. I can't wait.

TJ S.
from NEW HAMPSHIRE

PS. The number 328 refers to the entirety of the Sonic the Hedgehog run, everything from 1/4, to Knuckles the Echidna, to Sonic X, to the specials, to the Super Special, to the main book, to Sonic Universe, and even to the Sabrina the Teenage Witch crossover issue!

Wow! That's quite the collection! Don't forget the Sonic Archives and Sonic Selects if you're a true completist.

Dear Sonic Grams,
I'd like to say that while I usually enjoy your Sonic comics (especially since Ian Flynn started writing), the Iron Dominion arc has been a bit lacking. Although the coloring is fantastic, Butler's artwork leaves something to be desired, and the book would no doubt be much better if Fry, Gray, or Peppers were assigned to the main story. Also, I would prefer if something would actually happen in the Iron Dominion arc, as it seems that 201-202 were nothing but setup, while 203-204 taste like filler. The sooner we get to the meat of the arc, the better.

Sincerely,
Al E.
from MINNESOTA

Thanks for the honest critique, Al. Hopefully this installment and the upcoming finale will be meaty enough for you!

That's all the letters we've got on the docket for this month, thanks again to all you readers out there that sent in the fan art, fan funnies and assorted Sonic memorabilia we get bombarded with here at the Archie offices! I had no idea you kids still sent snail mail let alone had the capacity to bury us in it! But seriously folks, we love hearing from you - so keep writing in!!

Oh, and one more thing - a special shout out to all you BUMBLEKINGS out there - keep those message boards a-poppin!

NEXT ISSUE: 210

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE OVER NEW MOBOTROPOLIS?! WELL I'VE GOT 2 WORDS FOR YOU...
PIKO, PIKO. "HOME INVASION pt1"
ON SALE THE WEEK OF 3/16/10

NEXT SONIC UNIVERSE: 13

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